

# CONTROLLER JOHN CHIANG

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## Chiang Announces Unclaimed Property Web Site Now Available in Chinese and Tagalog

**SACRAMENTO** – State Controller John Chiang today unveiled improvements to the Unclaimed Property web site that allow individuals to search for old bank accounts, securities and other abandoned assets in two additional languages: Chinese and Tagalog. Chiang spent the last year reforming the Unclaimed Property program in order to protect property owners and provide them with better notification of their belongings.

“These new features will increase the opportunity for many individuals to search for their lost valuables,” Chiang said. “I am committed to continuing to find ways to improve the Unclaimed Property Program and more quickly reunite people with their lost cash, heirlooms and other property.

Links to the [Chinese](#) and [Tagalog](#) sites can be found at [ClaimIt.ca.gov](http://ClaimIt.ca.gov). The searchable database already is available in English and Spanish, and the Controller intends to add more languages later in the year.

The Controller’s Unclaimed Property web site allows consumers to not only search for properties that are held by the State, but also properties that are scheduled to be sent to the State by a business that has deemed the account abandoned. The business’ contact information is included on the database so that property owners can contact the company and either reactivate their account, or claim the property from the business directly.

Last year, Controller Chiang sponsored successful reform legislation to lift legal restrictions that prevented him from notifying individuals believed to be the owners of unclaimed property already sent to the State. Since the enactment in August of SB 86, the Controller has mailed more than 2.2 million notices, including two million notices to owners he previously was prohibited from contacting.

Created in 1959, the Unclaimed Property program is intended to safeguard abandoned or forgotten property – such as bank accounts, utility deposits or stock certificates – from being lost during mergers or bankruptcies, drawn down by service or storage fees, or simply used by private interests for personal gain, either through an unwillingness to find the owner or greed.

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